# AN ACCOUNT of,

(Together with)

# The Writing it Self

That was found in the Pocket of

# LAWRENCE HILL,

At the time He and *GREEN* were Executed,

(*Friday* the 21st. of *February*, 167$\frac{8}{9}$.)

FOR THE MURDER OF

## Sr. *EDMOND-BERRY GODFREY* Kt.

TIs very fit the World ſhould have ſome Account of what was ſaid at the Execution of theſe men, and how they came to ſay what they did.

Their Confeſſion (as 'tis called) was a Denyal of the Fact, which was Pen'd and prepar'd in a very Formall manner, and taken out of the Pocket of *Hill*, who had neither Pen, Ink nor Paper, all the while he was in *Newgate*; Yet after he was dead, Captain *Richardſon* the Maſter of *Newgate*, ſaw the Executioner take it out of his Pocket;

Which is *Verbatim* as follows.

*I Now come to the Fatal place where I muſt end my Life, and I hope with that Courage that may become my Innocence: I muſt now appear before the great Judge, who knows all things and judges rightly; and I hope it will be happy for me a ſinner, that I am thus wrongfully put to death. I call God, Angels and Men to witneſs, that I am wholly ignorant of the Manner, Cauſe or Time of the death of Juſtice* Godfrey, *although on that account by the malice of wicked men brought to this ſhameful death, which I hope will give me a ſpeedy paſſage to Eternal Life. In this hope I die cheerfully, becauſe of my Innocence,*

 *and*

*and the benefit of the pretious wounds of my blessed Saviour, by whose Merits I hope for Salvation. I die a* Roman Catholick, *desiring all such to Pray for me: And I beseech God in his Justice to Discover this horrid Murder, with the Contrivers thereof; that my Innocence may appear: And though from my heart I forgive my Accusers, yet I Cyte all such as have had a hand in this Bloody Contrivance, before the great Tribunal of Gods Justice, to answer for the wrong they have done the Innocent; and particularly the* Lord Chief Justice, *and the Brothers of Sir* Edmond Godfrey, *with Jury, Witnesses, and all their partakers. Oh Lord bless and preserve His Majesty, and be merciful to this poor Nation, and lay not Innocent Blood to its Charge: So I bid you all Farewel in Jesus Christ, into whose hands I commend my Spirit.*

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This Paper was shewn to *Hills* Wife; and she being demanded whether it was her Husbands Hand-Writing; affirmed it was not: And being further asked whether she convey'd it to him, she protested she knew not how he came by it, and declared that she never saw it before.

Of this Lesson *Hill* repeated as much as (in such an ill time for conning) he could remember; wherein these particulars are very observable.

*First*, That these words were not the Prisoners own words, but prepared by another for him to say.

And that in a matter which required only plain Truth, but not Art, and so the Writers skill was needless.

For all that the Prisoner could instruct the Penner in, must be, that he was not guilty of the Fact; which certainly would have been much more Credible out of his Mouth from his Heart, then out of this Paper from his Memory.

But

But the Obedience of the dying Proselite, and the Charity of the Instructing Priest, (for such without question is the Indicter,) is very remarkable.

For no man certainly in *Articulo Mortis* would have troubled his mind with a parcel of formal words, if the Awe of the Priest had not been prevalent, even above his considerations for a future state.

But above all, The exemplary Charity of the Holy Father is not to be forgotten; who after he has made his dying Penitent say that from his heart he did forgive his Accusers; yet in his very next breath (which was almost his last too) he makes him cyte both Judge, Jury and Witnesses, with all their partakers, before the great Tribunal of God's Justice, to answer for the wrong they have done him

Which (besides the incoherent Non-sense) contains in it, First the very Spirit of a *Romish Priest*. Then it manifests what regard they have to the Souls of their dying Disciples, to make them call for Vengeance, when they should forgive: And it shews the direct equivocation of a Priest too, who when he says from his heart he forgives, Yet hopes God will not; Else why does he Cyte them before the Dreadful Tribunall, to answer the Wrong they have done? And when the Prisoner was to say this at his Death, I would fain have any Man tell me, why he might not as well at his last hour denie the Truth, as depart from Charity, if his Priest requires it?

I commend the Priest for his Care of their Church, in that the World should know he died a Roman Catholick, but not so much for his care of the *Man*, When he would not let him desire the Prayers of any but *Papists*.

Let any unprejudic'd person consider well what is naturally to be collected from this *Paper*, and he will easily judge, without breach of Charitie, upon what grounds Men of that Persuasion are first seduced to commit a Sin, and then obstinately to denie it to the last.

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